March is an exciting month in the life of every Lodge. The installation of officers must be held after March 15 and no later than April 15. This is the time for new leadership to assume responsibility for the governance of the Lodge.

A challenge that may exist is the failure to properly train new officers for their duties. Many Lodges have their practices and traditions in some respects, but there are fundamental responsibilities provided in our statutes that all officers should be familiar with. Are you holding an officer training program within the Lodge or district that gives new officers the knowledge and tools to help them do their jobs? Knowing what to do must be learned, and new officers may not know where to look to get the best information.

And please, don’t forget to get your committees appointed and provide committee members with the information they will need to do their jobs. I’ve often thought how helpful it would be for every committee chair to be asked to attend a Lodge meeting every month or at least every quarter to give a report on the activities of the committee. It will provide meeting attendees with updates of committee activities, and it will instill in committee chairs an understanding that the activities of their committees have value and their reports are appreciated.

All eyes are also on Lodge finances. Budget preparation should be underway, with serious thought being given to rightsizing Lodge spending plans to keep them within anticipated receipts. Too often budgets are prepared just because they have to be without serious consideration of what will be needed to maintain long term Lodge viability.

Please take your budgeting responsibilities seriously to make sure your Lodge will remain a welcoming home for your Members for many years to come.

From the Treasurer: Everyone has a chance to win the big prizes in the annual Massachusetts Elks Association, Inc. Charity Fund Drive! Each member receives a book a raffle tickets in the mail. Members who joined in the last few weeks can get their tickets in the lounge. Ask your server!
I always have a stack of extras! You can offer tickets to your family, friends or co-workers. Every sale makes a difference for our Lodge and the MA Elks!
Also, I want to thank everyone who purchased tickets for the Valentine’s Wreath Raffle, supporting the Hyannis Elks PER Association. Winning tickets were drawn on February 4th. Anastasia’s—luck of the Irish? Michael won as well as Patrick!
I hope to see everyone at the installation of officers on Saturday, March 28th,
Your Treasurer, Betty Legere, PER

https://www.facebook.com/groups/746111232246754/
March 2020 Newsletter

I would like to thank everyone for allowing me the honor of being the new Exalted Ruler of the Hyannis Elks. First, I would like to thank Donna Medeiros, PER for her hard work over the past four years, from moving the lodge from under the eyes of the Grand Lodge Steering Committee to raising membership by double digits this past year alone. Donna, along with the various members of the Board of Directors and Governing Body, have provided the lodge with leadership to move forward from our troubled past.

We have come far, but I believe that we have much further to go. I would like for us, as members to reflect and think about the past of the lodge and its future. What do we want to accomplish? Increasing membership is a lofty goal set down by Grand Lodge, and I am confident that we can achieve that, but I am asking you, as members what goals you would like the lodge to have. Whether it is a new facility in some form, donating more time and money to our local community? Anything that can help draw in new members. Ask your friends, relatives and your children, what could we offer them to become members at our lodge.

There are many Committees within the lodge, and I encourage everyone to get involved in some way. Each one serves a vital role within our and the community. Throughout the year there are tasks that are as simple as packing supplies for the veterans or complex as organizing a lodge function. Do you have an awesome dish you would like to cook for the lodge, or maybe you enjoy a board or card game? Plan a lodge dinner. Plan a game night, teach others how to play that game. Everyone is vital and everyone can contribute.

I know that we all want what is best for our lodge, and we all have different ways to achieve it. We all need to remember that. If we all work together, we can make the lodge a better place for you, the members, and through us all, the community. I look forward to working with everyone during the upcoming year.

Fraternally,
Patrick Anastasia, Leading Knight
Exalted Ruler-Elect
Hyannis Lodge, #1549

From the Secretary:
If you qualify for Life Membership, or you think that you might qualify for Life Membership, please follow these statues and send me your request before Tuesday, March 3, 2020. All requests must be in writing, either sent by mail, left in the lodge, or via email to: hyanniselks@gmail.com. Please call 508-364-3150 if you have any questions.
All requests will be read on the floor of the Lodge and the balloting for Life Memberships will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Fraternally,
Elizabeth K. Reney, Secretary

Opinion 01: Grant of a Life Membership to a member who is qualified to apply therefore under 14.260 is not automatic. The application must be formally presented to the Lodge and a favorable vote gained thereon. Section 14.260. By an affirmative secret ballot of two-thirds of those present at a regular Lodge meeting, a Member in good standing may be elected to a Life Membership when he has:

a. Paid to a Lodge or Lodges required annual dues for a period of not less than thirty (30) consecutive years immediately preceding his election, and has attained the age of not less than sixty-five (65); or b. Paid in advance an amount at least equal greater of six hundred ($600) dollars or twenty-five (25) times the annual dues of the Lodge. The Exalted Ruler shall set a date for the election which is not later than the third regular meeting after the nomination. All members shall be sent notice of the election at least ten (10) days prior date of the meeting at which the vote shall be taken. For purposes of calculating years of membership under this section, the first year of membership or any part thereof shall be deemed a full year.